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Soviet Pinched B-29's

New York, Feb. 14.
The New York Times said today that "at least three B-29s in operational condition vanished after emergency landings near Vladivostok" before Russia declared war on Japan.

"In at least two instances," the Times said, "Russian fighter planes opened fire on obviously friendly American planes and in one instance Russian anti-aircraft batteries opened up in daylight on a stricken Superfortress."

The Times said the crews were interned with other Army and Navy airmen at Tashkent in south-central Russia in a camp that at one time held 131 Americans.

The Times said the story was written by Sidney Shallet of its Washington staff, who said that while the war lasted it was a top secret matter and even now War and State Department authorities are extremely reluctant to see it in print.

"Possession of the B-29s gave the Russians an excellent working model for the long-range and highly effective strategy of the bomber which they have developed for themselves during the war," Shallet said.—Associated Press.

KOWLOON "EVACUATION" DEMAND

Nanking, Feb. 14.
The Kuomintang-dominated Nanking Municipal Council has issued a manifesto calling on the United States and Russia to withdraw troops from China and for the restoration of Chinese sovereignty over Dairen, Hong Kong and Port Arthur.

The statement was the first instance of a Government group voicing such demands.

"It called for the evacuation of Kowloon and Macao and rejected 'all intervention in Chinese internal affairs.'"

It proposed the formation of a joint assembly to give representation to all "popular organs" and serve as an interim National Assembly.

The Council called for a broadened Government and separation of the army from "politics" and urged the Chinese Communists to surrender their forces.—United Press.

Nagas Have 315 Heads

New Delhi, Feb. 13.
Naga tribesmen in Assam, who helped the 14th Army intelligence service in the Burma war against Japan have "collected" 315 heads in head-hunting operations since the end of the Far East war, Mr. Pandit Nehru said here today.

Stern warnings were being sent to the off-shoot villages on both sides of the Assam-Burma border, saying that further head-hunting raids would result in punitive action being taken against the offenders, he added.—Reuter.

British Film Quota Draws Protest

Hollywood Feb. 14.
Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, said that further British restrictions against American pictures would injure the British industry as well as Hollywood producers.

Johnston, reporting to 500 top studio executives on his recent trip to England, pointed out that the United States has no tariff on other barriers against importation of foreign films.

"An increased quota in England would breed quotas in other countries," he said. "Every country with a struggling film industry would follow the British example and instead of England finding an expanding trend overseas for her film, she would meet with increased resistance."

"SAI ON" ENQUIRY OPENS

Evidence On Grilles And Storage

Steps Taken To Prevent Fire

The first step in the probe into the mystery of the fire on the river steamer "Sai On" on the morning of Feb. 4, which gutted the vessel and caused the loss of over 100 lives, was initiated yesterday morning when the Marine Court of Enquiry set up by Government, held its first sitting.

Public interest in the enquiry was evidenced by the large attendance of spectators who filled the small Court room long before the sitting commenced at 10 a.m., but the number fell sharply in the afternoon.

Among those who gave evidence yesterday were the master of the ill-fated vessel, Captain R. Wherry, chief officer William Anderson, the first, second and third engineers, and the Managing Director of the Tung On S.S. Co. Ltd., Mr. G. L. Fenton, owners of the "Sai On".

The Hon. Mr. M. M. Watson was in Court for the owners. The Court comprised the Harbour Master, Mr. J. Jolly, C.E., R.D. (President), and Lieut-Comdr. James Thomas (Crews, G.M., R.N., and Mr. Arthur Pittendrich, master mariner, members).

After the President had read the warrant constituting the Court, he called a 30-minute adjournment for the members to pay a visit to the "Sai On" to enable them to get better acquainted with the lay-out of the vessel. On their return the Court resumed at 10.35 a.m.

Captain's Evidence
The first witness called was Captain Robert Wherry, who said he had been master of the "Sai On" since Jan. 1, 1946. Prior to that he had served as master on various ships for five or six years. The "Sai On" was to his knowledge, built in 1924 by the Taikoo Dockyard & Engineering Co., Ltd. of Hong Kong; and apart from the war years had been continuously employed on the river trade.

On her last voyage down Canton the "Sai On" arrived about noon on Feb. 2. She had passengers and cargo, discharge of which was completed the following afternoon. As usual he had conducted a routine inspection of the discharge operation.

Loading of cargo on the upward trip then commenced, and on being shown a list of the goods loaded on board Capt. Wherry verified it to be correct. He also confirmed disposition of the cargo on the 'tween deck as shown on a chart. Among this cargo were three drums of white mineral oil, but he was not sure whether they all contained this oil. These three drums were, however, not touched by the fire. He estimated the quantity to be about 40 gallons.

Loading was completed by about midnight of Feb. 3. The operation was under the supervision of the Chief Officer. Possibility of unmanifested cargo or dangerous goods being brought on board by passengers was reduced to a minimum by reason of the strict supervision.

Twenty-one British seamen ended their strike on the freighter Hartington against taking coal to Singapore instead of to Britain. British Consul James McDonald said the men agreed to terminate the strike when it was explained the coal crisis in England would be over before the freighter could arrive in the British Isles.

The seamen struck on Tuesday. Mr. McDonald reiterated coal is needed by Singapore to carry food to Britain.—Associated Press.

ON OTHER PAGES
Page Two: Trading Suspended in Shanghai.
Page Three: Noma Trial.
Page Four: H.K.'s Ex-Gunners Got Together.
Page Five: Attlee Reports to Commons.
Page Six: Anglo-Saxon Scheme for World Defence.
Page Eight: M.C.C.'s in Difficulties.

"Further restrictions of any kind would constitute a picket fence across the path of expanding world trade. The motion picture industry, to be profitable, needs a world market. This is as true of the British industry as the American industry."

Johnston deplored the action of the British Film Producers' Association in proposing legislation that would decrease the playing time of American-made pictures on British screens and require British exhibitors to increase bookings of English films.—Associated Press.

EXPORTED TO HONG KONG

Tokyo, Feb. 14.
Occupation officials disclosed that more than 240,000 yards of woolen Japanese fabrics, stored in the Japanese Government Agency, which is now being liquidated, will be exported to Hong Kong.

The shipment is valued at US\$600,000. The proceeds will be earmarked for the purchase for Japan of raw wool from Australia, "necessary for the rehabilitation of the Japanese wool industry."—United Press.

Pamphlet Bombs In Cinema

Jerusalem, Feb. 13.
Several pamphlet bombs exploded harmlessly tonight as 1,000 persons left Jerusalem's Edison Theatre where the Palestine Philharmonic had presented its weekly concert.

The bombs discharged the text of last night's Zionist broadcast. Tel-Aviv's main thoroughfare, Allenby Street, was placed in bounds to British troops in an unexpected move.

Today, soldiers wearing rubber-soled shoes carried out surprise raids on Tel-Aviv's 100 cafes, restaurants, cinemas and other amusement centres, seizing two suspected extremists.

Two teen-aged Zionist pamphleteers were detained when caught plastering walls with terrorist proclamations.

The "canonization" security scheme, designed to catch any extremists, was enforced in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa.

Meanwhile, another hundred houses were requisitioned by the Army in Jerusalem's Rehavia quarter as the Army prepared to take over the premises of the Jewish National Fund.

Reports here said that 710 illegal immigrants from Cyprus left that island for Haifa and 330 would come next week, all to be taken in as "quota immigrants."—United Press.

Fuel Crisis Takes Turn For Better

London, Feb. 13.
The British fuel crisis took a turn for the better today and the Government was expected to decline with thanks President Truman's offer of American coal shipments. Cabinet Ministers and Mr. Attlee's new Joint Commission on the coal emergency probably will discuss Mr. Truman's offer of American assistance tomorrow.

Speculation that Britain would decline the offer was based on these factors:

Seamen's Strike Ends

Portland, Feb. 14.
Twenty-one British seamen ended their strike on the freighter Hartington against taking coal to Singapore instead of to Britain. British Consul James McDonald said the men agreed to terminate the strike when it was explained the coal crisis in England would be over before the freighter could arrive in the British Isles.

Black-Out On

Street lights all over England, Scotland and Wales were switched off in a return to wartime blackout tonight as another conservation measure. Only busy intersections, and areas where public safety might otherwise be endangered were illuminated.

MINERS STRIKE

New York, Feb. 14.
Six thousand miners at Lansford, Pennsylvania, stopped work today in sympathy with 18 miners who were on a sit-down strike 800 feet underground.—Reuter.

Cabinet Discuss Palestine

London, Feb. 14.
The Cabinet is expected to reach a new decision on Palestine at its meeting today. It will have before them Mr. Ernest Bevin's report on the flat rejection by the Arabs and Jews of the Cabinet's recent plan for Palestine and the further course of this issue, presumably an appeal to the United Nations.

The Palestine conference will meet this afternoon in its final session when Mr. Bevin will inform the Arab delegates on the Cabinet's decision. The final meeting between the British Government and the Jewish Agency representatives took place last night when the Jewish leaders reiterated their reasons for complete rejection of the Cabinet's proposals.

British sources believed that three possible courses were open to the Government.

1. An appeal to the United Nations to examine and adjust proposals for solution of the Palestine problem produced so far by Britain, the Arab delegates and the Jewish Agency.

2. Immediate withdrawal by Britain from Palestine with a simultaneous report of the decision to the United Nations.

3. Notice of withdrawal from Palestine at a given date.

The minimum Jewish demands were for safeguards for further immigration, abolition of land restriction and prospect for a viable Jewish state in a part of Palestine.

Discussions on a lower level between British officials and the Jewish Agency representatives are expected to be continued in the next few days for possible temporary arrangements during the interim period between now and a final solution.—United Press.

THE WEATHER

A moderate anticyclone covers China and Mongolia and is extending southward and eastward. A depression is moving ENE to the S of Japan and deepening. Pressure is also low over the Sea of Japan and to the S of the Coriolis.

Today's Forecast: Wind N and NE; moderate to fresh or strong off-shore; fair at first becoming cloudy; rather cold.

Yesterday's Weather: Maximum: 66 deg. Feh. Minimum: 52 deg. Feh. Sunshine: 8.8 hours.

Rainfall: Nil. Total since Jan. 1: 77.8 mm. as against an average of 54.6 mm.

Bar. at msl. 1029.3 1028.8 mb. Rel. Humidity 67 61 % Dew Point 46 51 deg. F. Wind Direction N W Wind Force 6 4 knots.

Antarctic World's Food Frig.?

Little America, Feb. 14.
Admiral Byrd envisions the eternally ice-capped wastes of the Antarctic as a great refrigerator in which the world could store bumper crops against lean years, possibly saving future generations from famine.

The head of the United States Navy's South Polar expedition said: "Notions of the world may some day use this great refrigerator. When countries have crops in abundance, they could put surplus supplies here to be used in famine years."

"The world's supply of food thus would be evened out," Admiral Byrd pointed out. "I purchased 20 years ago before his first Antarctic expedition, preserved in snow tunnels in his original Little America base."

He said evidence indicated the Antarctic continent once was in tropical climes and predicted: "The time will come when we will find fossils remains here."

Use For At-Bomb
He suggested the atomic bomb could be put to excellent use blowing off the top of the ice cap. Admiral Byrd asserted he be-

BRITANNIC IN CIVVY STREET

Liverpool, Feb. 14.
The liner "Britannic" touched Liverpool from Bombay last night at the end of her last voyage as a troopship after over seven years military service.

The vessel will be converted into a luxury liner White Star Trans-Atlantic Lines in the Birkenhead shipyard of Cunard Line, providing work for more than 1,000 men.—Reuter.

G.B.S. Has A Brain Wave

London, Feb. 14.
George Bernard Shaw took notice of Britain's fuel crisis today and in a letter to the Times offered a Shavian solution—harnessing the tides in Kyle of Tongue at the northern tip of Scotland.

Shaw said he suggested a tidal project to engineers many years ago but they went on grubbing for power in the coal mines, and now that the atomic bomb and Mr. Shinwell's prayers have awakened them up they are dreaming of nuclear energies, frightfully dangerous and enormously expensive. They do not seem to know that our tides, almost unique in the world, exist.

"My suggestions usually take 30 years to attract any attention. By this time an engineering trip to Thurso and Kyle of Tongue is a bit overdue. The climate is delightful, almost sub-tropical thanks to the Gulf Stream. Not at all Scottish!"—United Press.

Truman Steps In On Budget

Washington, Feb. 14.
President Truman stepped into Congressional argument over how much Government should spend with the assertion that the \$37,500,000,000 he requested is essential. He endorsed without qualification the statement of Secretary of War, Patterson who said the proposed budget cuts would bring starvation to Japan and Korea, and would jeopardise the Army long term missions in Japan and Germany.

Mr. Patterson said: "Our fund and strength of the occupation troops in Europe and the Far East are at the lowest level consistent with the performance of their missions."

He said General Eisenhower and MacArthur "have advised me further cuts will invite disaster." "The reported half billion cut in non-military funds will result in a corresponding cut in the already dangerously low civil ration in occupied areas. Starvation is inevitable. Any successful defence of our authority in the occupied areas would quickly mushroom to dangerous proportions with multiplied costs in men and money required to rescue the situation."

Senator Styles Bridges, Republican Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said that the army and navy protests indicate "lack of understanding" of congressional intent.

He said that the sub-committee has merely expressed its views

FOREIGN OFFICE GOES ALL COY

London, Feb. 14.
High officials of the Foreign Office today imposed a news ban on further developments in Anglo-Soviet and Anglo-French treaty negotiations. No reason for the ban was given by the spokesman who described it as "an onset of eagerness." It appeared that the blackout may have been imposed in view of the delicate state of relations between London and Moscow—a tension which probably had been heightened by news of the Canadian-American military agreement.

News of the agreement and the emphasis which it places on Arctic defence measures cannot fail to be received with suspicion in Moscow. Its timing may, in the opinion of observers here, result in a setback for the Anglo-Russian negotiations—in which Britain expects the Soviet Union to ask for an all-out military alliance.

News of the Canadian-American pact was received in official silence here. Although the spokesman admitted Britain was informed of the negotiations, he stressed that "we neither were asked for nor tendered any advice or comment."

The ban on news of the Anglo-French negotiations may have been designed to prevent Moscow from gaining the impression that Britain placed more emphasis on this pact than on revision of the Anglo-Soviet treaty. Soviet policy looks with disfavour on tendencies toward closer union between Western European

powers, terming them anti-Soviet in nature.

Sort Of Coyness
Asked to comment on reports that the French Ambassador, Rene Massigli, was scheduled to receive the British draft of the proposed Anglo-French treaty today, the spokesman said: "I can only say that he had not called at the Foreign Office this morning."

Opening the daily press conference, the spokesman said: "I regret to announce a certain onset of eagerness within the Foreign Office. I am instructed to say it is unlikely we shall report the progress achieved between London and Moscow on the subject of Stalin's reservations. This also applies to progress on the Anglo-French treaty."

The Yugoslav News Agency correspondent asked for the definition of "eagerness."

"It's a sort of coyness or reluctance," the spokesman said smiling.


Observers expected Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin would take up the possibility of revision of the Anglo-Soviet treaty direct with Premier Stalin during the Foreign Ministers' Council meeting in Moscow next month.

Stalin, in his recent correspondence with Mr. Bevin, said he felt certain "reservations" in the treaty—originally designed to provide joint British-Russian military action in the event of German military resurgence, must be eliminated. Mr. Bevin subsequently asked Stalin for full information concerning the changes desired by Russia. No further reply has been reported.—United Press.

CHINA FLIGHTS OFF

New York, Feb. 14.
The Trans-Pacific Air Lines at San Francisco announced that the Company has abandoned its plan to operate flights between Oakland, California and China "because of failure to obtain the necessary landing rights" in China.—Central News.

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GENDARME CHIEF WAS "MISUNDERSTOOD" MAN

Officer Sentenced For Bigamy

London, Feb. 14. Although letters were read seeking leniency for him from the two women involved, a London company director and former R.A.F. officer was, at Cambridge Assizes, sentenced to nine months' imprisonment for bigamy.

He is Wilson Boyd Rowat, aged 32, of Natal-road, Stratham, S.W. He pleaded guilty to bigamy, marrying Miss Edith Eleanor McLeay, at St. Neots, Hunts, on Sept. 4.

His legal wife wrote that she had refused to give evidence against him, and sent him good wishes. The woman he had bigamously married, in a letter from "marrying home," revealed she had given birth to twins only a week before the trial. She pleaded not to be separated from him.

Mr. A. G. de Montmorency prosecuting, said Rowat was married on Oct. 7, 1936, and there were no children. On his return to England after overseas service with the R.A.F. he went through a form of marriage with Miss McLeay.

Mr. Paul Tyrer, defending, submitted that no real harm had been done to either of the women.

Rowat's marriage had been unhappy from the start, and he had left him to live with another woman. She started divorce proceedings against him in 1944, about a month before the bigamy wedding ceremony.

Nevertheless, he wished him well, said Mr. Tyrer, who read a letter she had sent to her husband from an address in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. This stated: "I have refused to give evidence against you. I had to sign a statement for the police, but I only put the truth regarding our marriage, the time we lived together, etc. There is no doubt now that we must sort the thing out so that you can get straight."

"Good wishes to you and a sincere hope that all will go well with you in your coming ordeal," Miss McLeay's relationship with Rowat was extremely happy, went on Mr. Tyrer, and she would undoubtedly have been present in court had she not given birth to twins a few days before.

"Cannot Bear Separation"

She also had sent a letter, which stated: "I have been very happy with Mr. Rowat, who has always treated me with great kindness, and I want only to be allowed to continue to live with him and to marry him if it should become possible later on. I cannot bear the thought of being separated from him and hope the judge will not separate us and leave me with the responsibility of my three babies!"

Passing sentence, Mr. Justice Hallett said he was of opinion it was not one of the worst cases of bigamy. Having got the woman into trouble Rowat went through a ceremony of marriage to satisfy her. This was constantly happening today.

Noma was misunderstood by some of his subordinates and therefore considered to be a cold-hearted person," said Captain Yatai in the course of his cross-examination by Major MacGregor before No. 7 War Crimes Court yesterday.

Replying to Major MacGregor, Yatai said that all documents concerning interrogations conducted by the Gendarmes were turned over to the Judicial Department.

There was only one Alsatian hound at Gendarmerie Headquarters. A number of small dogs from outside came to play with this Alsatian. One of the female clerks employed at the Gendarmerie had, as a pet, a small, long-haired, gentle dog which she brought to the Gendarmerie from time to time. The female clerk was not employed in the kitchen.

The rations received by prisoners detained at the Gendarmerie were more than he was now getting at Stanley. There was a shortage of medical supplies in Hong Kong. Among the 2,000 policemen employed in Hong Kong, many suffered from malaria, which was prevalent. Much difficulty was experienced in obtaining medical supplies.

From his weekly meetings, Noma knew what was going on among his subordinates.

Very Strict
The next witness, Major Shiozawa, said that Noma was very strict in carrying out the orders of his superior, the Governor General. He was very keen concerning the maintenance of peace and order. He was also strict towards his subordinates and insisted that orders issued by him be carried out to the letter. He was misunderstood by some of his subordinates and therefore considered to be a cold-hearted person.

The number of blankets issued to prisoners depended on the state of the weather. In summer, they received one blanket each, but in winter, four. Prisoners were taken out for a sun bath when the weather was warm and on these occasions, blankets were also given an airing.

Rations were issued according to the scale laid down by the Governor General. Whenever there was anything left over from the meals of the Gendarmerie staff, it was made available to the prisoners as extra food.

"Be Kind" Order
Noma gave instructions to his subordinates to carry out interrogations as promptly as possible to avoid the possibility of people being detained longer than necessary. He also instructed them to be kind and careful towards prisoners.

Shiozawa said that he never at any time received verbal or written orders from Noma to execute Goh and others who escaped from the Gendarmerie and were later recaptured. Noma never gave written orders to any member of the Gendarmerie staff.

Inouye Kanao was an interpreter at Gendarmerie Headquarters. He did not act as interpreter when the escapees were recaptured.

There were many wild dogs in Hong Kong and on representations made by the representatives of the Chinese Co-operative Council, action was taken to eliminate them. There were no police dogs in Hong Kong.

Shiozawa said that Ramphal

Ghille was a personal detective attached to Morioka. Ghille was held as a prisoner on suspicion of espionage activities. Sgt. Major Hayashi said that Inouye Kanao was working as an interpreter at the Special Branch of Gendarmerie Headquarters. He could not read Japanese and was a bad interpreter. Inouye was never assigned for night duty. Hayashi said that Inouye, who kept a girl, was scolded by him because he stole money and articles. While at Stanley, Inouye had threatened him. Hayashi denied that he had ever spoken to Inouye regarding Goh.

Informers
Major Hirao said that Noma carried out inspections of the Kowloon Gendarmerie.

During his period of duty, the Gendarmes had been attacked on five or six occasions by Communist guerrillas and suffered casualties.

On Dec. 8, 1944, he was engaged in the construction of fortifications at Taimoshan. There was an air raid that day, which was the anniversary of the outbreak of war, with the result that he was not able to return to his office until late in the evening.

He knew a Joseph Vempin, who was employed as an informer. Hirao said he had given instructions that informers should not be allowed to walk about freely in the Gendarmerie offices.

Lieut. Comdr. Imamura said that on Dec. 9, 1944, anniversary of the outbreak of war, the civilian residents of Hong Kong donated aeroplanes to the Japanese Navy. During a ceremony which was being held at Headquarters, Land Forces, an air raid took place. P-51s came over in waves and he heard bombs striking ships at the wharves. The "All Clear" signal was given at about 11 o'clock. During an air raid, only automobiles engaged in air defence were allowed on the roads.

Hearing was then adjourned till 10 a.m. today.

Yugoslavia Stalling?

Athens, Feb. 14. Mark Ethridge, U.S. member of the United Nations commission investigating Greek border warfare, charged Yugoslavia with delaying tactics in presenting its case.

The Yugoslav delegate replied that "certain people" did not want to hear all his statements. Ethridge declared the action of the Yugoslav delegate Josip Djeric in speaking for 45 minutes and then waiting several hours before speaking another 45 minutes was "bordering on the frivolous."

Djeric said a throat ailment prevented him from speaking for longer periods but that he wanted also to make sure that the commission had sufficient time to read all documents submitted.

HELENA MAY REUNION
A reunion tea party was held by members of the Helena May Institute at the Institute yesterday.

Among those present were Lady Young (President of the Council), Mrs. H. Bullock, Mrs. M. A. Campbell, Mrs. M. A. Lo, Mrs. M. Cassidy, Mrs. M. Everett, Mrs. K. R. Fleming, Mrs. E. Rowell, Mrs. M. M. Annett, Mrs. I. Sykes, Mrs. M. Gundersen, Mrs. L. Dunbar, and Mrs. A. Wee.

Most of those who attended brought a book as a contribution towards the library, destroyed during the occupation.

Oldster Rival Of Young Soldier

Manchester, Feb. 14. "Love at first sight" over a bun and a cup of tea in a NAAFI canteen at a Manchester station was described at Manchester magistrates' court when a seventy-five-year-old man and a twenty-seven-year-old soldier both declared their love for a woman of twenty-seven.

The woman, Nellie Elizabeth Marsland, of Texteth-street, Higher Openshaw, Manchester, accused of bigamously marrying the soldier on Christmas Eve, was sent for trial at the next Assizes, and allowed bail.

Leaving the court with both men, the woman finally went off with the soldier. It was his last day of leave before returning to his unit in Northumberland.

Mrs. Marsland, a brunette, in an alleged statement to the police, said she had married her husband in October, 1939. She had continued to live with him right up to Christmas Eve, when she "married" the soldier.

Her husband was seventy-five on his last birthday. She had never been really happy from the time they were first married, but Mr. Marsland had always tried to be kind to her.

She met the soldier, Harry Denny Eley, at the NAAFI canteen where she was employed as a waitress.

He had come in for a cup of tea and a bun, and it was "a case of love at first sight."

Harry took her part of the way home for a few nights, and she told him she was a single woman.

Eley said he still loved her very much and wanted to marry her properly.

Woman Influenced By Novel

London, Feb. 14.

A woman who, it was pleaded, had been influenced by reading a novelette, was bound over at Peterborough Quarter Sessions after pleading guilty to blackmail.

She is Gwendoline Mary Cuttoo, aged 27, of Wygata-road, Spalding, Lincs, mother of three children. The chairman, Judge W. Lawson Campbell, told her that the Court took a lenient course "out of consideration for her husband, an R.A.F. sergeant shortly to be released after nine years' service."

The judge said that black-

Employee Sues For Back Wages

Before Mr. Justice T. J. Gould at the Supreme Court yesterday, Lo Chiu, printer, of No. 49, Connaught Road, Central, instituted legal proceedings against his former employer, Chan Shiu-man, manager and partner of the Kinson Printing Press, No. 7, Si Hong Lane, for back wages and allowances amounting to \$399.50, plus cost of the action. Neither party was legally represented.

Lo claimed payment from Chan of one month's wages, \$140, in lieu of notice; of seven days' wages, \$51.50, allegedly due him; of one month's boarding allowance, \$80; and of overtime pay for 38 Sundays, \$188. The total was \$399.50. Plaintiff stated that on Jan. 7, Chan dismissed him without reason and notice, after he had worked for the printing press for almost a year.

Although there was no written agreement, Lo added, his employment by Chan was a regular one at \$140 per month, plus lodging and boarding. In October, last year, Chan wanted to reduce his wages to \$120, but the plaintiff did not agree.

Lo alleged that according to the firm's regulations, he was allowed Sundays off and would be paid for overtime work on three Sundays every month if he worked on Sundays. The regular work was eight hours a day on week days. Lo said that when he was dismissed on Jan. 7, Chan still owed him seven days' wages.

Wong Choi, paper cutter of Chan's printing press, said that the shop's regulations were that foks were not to work on Sundays.

Circular

Sometime last year when foks demanded overtime pay on Sundays from the shops, witness added, Chan asked the foks to sign a circular. In the circular, there was one condition under which foks' employment would terminate if they asked for overtime pay.

Because of this condition, witness said, none of the foks signed the circular.

Witness said that none of the foks worked on Jan. 5 Sunday, two days before plaintiff's dismissal. In the witness box, Chan alleged that he dismissed the plaintiff because he did not work on Sunday, Jan. 5, without his permission. Chan denied that he had ever agreed to pay overtime pay to the foks and that it was the shop's regulation to allow foks free Sundays.

Chan said he dismissed the plaintiff after the stoppage of work on Sunday, Jan. 5, because he thought Lo was the instigator. The case was adjourned to this morning.

Passengers Abandoned Ship

Seattle, Feb. 14. The ss. North Sea, which ran aground off British Columbia, radioed early today that 85 passengers are leaving the ship by lifeboats.

The message said the coast guard of a Canadian coastal station "have" the situation well in hand and on the way "with aid."

The radio operator on the ship said he will not be able to send further messages "because of water in the oil." It is not known whether he meant there is fire in the hold or whether the ship is taking water in the fuel tanks.

An earlier message said the ship was taking water in No. 2 hold.—United Press.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NOTICE

KING'S COLLEGE

Old Boys and former members of the Staff are invited to send me information which would assist me in compiling records of the academic and athletic history of King's College from 1928 to 1947. The following would be greatly valued:—

1. Copies of the School Prospectus, magazines, athletic programmes, School Concert programmes, reports of Speech Days.
2. Lists of scholarship and prize winners with appropriate years.
3. War records, December 1941—August 1945.

I shall be very happy to meet any Old Boy or former colleague at the Education Office, Windsor House, 3rd floor.

J. J. FERGUSON, Principal.
Hong Kong, 12th Feb., 1947.

NOTICE

I have been requested by all Shipping Lines operating in the Far East Freight Conference to warn Consignees that notice to the Shipping Companies concerned in respect of irregularities such as pilferage and loss is not reported in many cases until days and even weeks have elapsed.

"It is imperative that immediate notice be given in respect of any such irregularities in order that investigations can be made with the least possible delay." It is pointed out further that failure to report immediately might affect claims against Steamship Companies.

J. D. ALEXANDER
Local Chairman
Far Eastern Freight Conference.

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PUBLIC AUCTION

The Undersigned have received instructions from the Custodian of Property to sell by Public Auction on

Tuesday the 18th February 1947 commencing at 10.00 a.m.

at their Sales Rooms, Pedder Building, Basement.

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The above-mentioned articles will be open for inspection at their respective godowns on 15th February, 1947, between 10.00 a.m. and noon, and on 17th February, 1947, between 10.00 a.m. and noon, and between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. Inspection Permits will be issued by the Undersigned at their Auction Rooms.

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It is hereby notified that sealed Tenders, in triplicate, for the purchase of the following unserviceable craft will be received at the office of the Chairman of the Tender Board, Public Works Department, until Noon on Friday, 7th March, 1947. The tender should be clearly marked "Tender for the purchase of unserviceable craft."

The craft are to be sold as they lie and may be seen on application to the Superintendent Engineer, Government Shipway, Yau-mat.

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Tenders must deposit at the Prince's Building, The Treasury, the sum of \$500 (Five Hundred Dollars) for each tender submitted. This sum will be forfeited to the Hong Kong Government if the successful tenderer fails to complete the transaction. The deposit will be returned to unsuccessful tenderers.

The successful tenderer will be required to pay the purchase money to the Treasury within 48 hours of being advised of the acceptance of their tender. Government does not bind itself to accept the highest or any tender.

J. JOLLY, Harbour Master. Hongkong, 13th Feb., 1947.

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HOUSING
HARDSHIP

Mr. Justice Williams' decision in the Apliu Street tenancy appeal may be good law, but if it is the law, then the law should be changed. Nothing, surely, strikes so sharply across the general principles of English justice than a direction that what is fair and reasonable is of no consequence as long as legal conditions attached to a tenant's "I want" are fulfilled. In this particular case, the owner of the premises sought eviction of the tenant on the ground that they were required for the accommodation of a son or daughter over 18. The Tenancy Tribunal found that refusal of the application would impose no hardship on the applicant, with the obvious implication of the very reverse effect upon the tenant and his sub-tenants. Mr. Justice Williams was wrong in taking relative hardship into consideration, and that the owner's mere demand for vacant possession, as long as the evidence satisfied the conditions of Article 5, para 1 (A) (1) of the Landlord and Tenant Proclamation, was imperative, leaving the Tribunal with no option but to make the order for eviction. However unreasonable it may be, if the tenant is dangerously ill and the removal might cause death, the Tribunal must grant the eviction order. To achieve this somewhat astonishing finding, Mr. Justice Williams insists that the operative word in the Proclamation which decrees that the Tribunal "may" make the order must be interpreted as "shall." It matters not, of course, whether the worthy Puisse Judge is right or wrong. There is an offence against common logic and good sense. Mr. Justice Williams did, in fact, go so far out of his way to emphasise the extremes to which literal interpretation of the Proclamation could be carried that his primary purpose may well have been to point the urgent need for remedy. The history of the Landlord and Tenant Proclamation, and of the subsequent amendment which gave the Tenancy Tribunal power to evict a tenant in favour of a landlord claiming possession for himself or members of his family, suggest perhaps that the Appeal Court adhered too closely to the letter and overlooked the spirit of the law. The amendment was specifically recommended, and approved, on the ground that the rigidity of the original Proclamation imposed undue hardship on landlords requiring their premises for their own use. It seems a natural corollary that the introduction of a hardship clause of this nature should entitle Tribunal of Court to examine the relative degrees of hardship as between landlord and tenant as a factor to be taken into consideration. Any other view would seem to ignore among other things the paramount purpose of the Proclamation as a whole, which is the protection of the interests of the lawful tenant, in defiance of the common law, unless the landlord can show good cause for the overriding of this main principle. The finding of Mr. Justice Williams rejects this interpretation and in a fashion that brooks of no argument, save perhaps recourse to a higher court. That being the case, it is to be hoped that the Law Officers engaged in drafting the Ordinance which is to replace the Landlord and Tenant Proclamation shortly, will take the opportunity of employing phraseology to cover an Apliu Street situation in a manner denying possibility of doubt or misunderstanding.

NAZI BOSS IN
U.S. HOSPITAL

Frankfurt, Feb. 13. It was announced officially tonight that Kuno Schmidt, 50, ex-Sturmabfuhrer of the Leader's School for German security police under Heinrich Himmler, had been arrested after he was found working for the Americans in the 317th Station Hospital in Wiesbaden. Schmidt, one-time police colonel in the German Army, was also holding the job of Custodian of Property in the Wiesbaden German Denazification Tribunal.

"The Light Went Out While I Was Shaving"

By PHILIP AULT

London, Feb. 13. The light went out while I was shaving this morning. Shaving—well you can do that by feel.

But fellow-correspondent Fahs' wife now—she has a two-month-old baby and nothing but electric heating. The baby's warmed milk is in the thermostat. Bruce Munn has a little cold now. He did not have any last week. The horses had flu, the man said.

These weren't Britain's little people. These were American journalists looked upon by the British as privileged because they live in "luxury" flats—some even have central heating—and paid anything from U.S.\$150 a month up for them.

Sometimes it is funny—sometimes it is grim. But always it is a crisis and never is it comfortable.

Munn looks like a miner crawling into a coal mine to scrape the floor for enough to get the first place going. His missus bakes wet logs in a gas oven and tries to mould coal dust into burnable bricks.

Mrs. Higginbotham buttoned

up her dressing gown trying to get warm before a gas fire whose pressure is so low there is only a flame—no heat.

S.O.S.

Cliff Day went locking for candles in six shops. He did not find any and today Mrs. Day is sending SOS messages to relatives for some to light their flat during the five hours of the day when there is no juice.

Joe Dowson was late this morning. He had been to seven cigarette shops seeking butts without which no sports writer can work.

Other United Press correspondents Barber, Thrapp and Buckingham were lucky. They share a steam-heated luxury flat and had floods of hot water. They invited their friends to use their bathtub at will. That was last week. Today they showed up at work ill-shaven and shivering from cold. There was no coal for their 100-ft. block.

Robert Mussel was the luckiest of all. He went home to the United States.

Teletype operator Credon still could not get his house above 50 degrees in the front room. Operator Winch was in trouble with the school authorities. They said they would take action if his youngster did not get to school on time. But Mrs. Winch said it took her three quarters of an hour to heat the water for the child's morning porridge.

Geoff Lamb—he lives down the street from Higginbotham—sent home the girls in his plastic plant. They couldn't use their hands for the cold.

Railways Helpful

A guard at the suburban station gave up. "The next train," he said. "It's just the next one that comes along. Don't know where it's going."

ing or when it'll be here. Maybe a half hour—maybe sooner. The village tobacconist thought he'd last out the week but in London shop after shop said "Cigarettes for regulars only—and perishing few for them." These folk still were cutting. There was food—yet—but cooking was the problem. If gas is strong enough your wife is lucky. Otherwise she manages her cooking to skirt the five hours there isn't any current. Many reverted to the habits of their ancestors and did morning toast speared on a fork over a gas fire or in the fireplace.

How many thousands dead? Nobody has died except some like the six R.A.F. men who crashed their plane trying to get food to a snowbound village. Few were likely to die as a direct result of the cold.

But this was not broken, beaten Germany. This was London. This was Britain—one of the countries that won the war—the one that can take it—United Press.

RANGOON BANK
STRIKE

Rangoon, Feb. 13. Anti-Fascist Peoples' Freedom League faks today picketed Rangoon banks as about 2,000 bank clerks joined strike-bound labourers and commercial firms' employees, estimated at 40,000. Early this afternoon all banks in the city shut their doors, displaying a notice that the day had been declared a bank holiday.

The Burma Police Union is holding a conference tomorrow to decide its policy towards the strike.—Reuter.

Mr. Silence Makes Allowances

London's "little people," whose bulldog tenacity rode out the Nazi blitz, believe they are "getting it in the neck" now worse than during the war.

They disagree, however, about where the blame lies and what the remedy is according to a United Press survey today.

Charles Silence, a 58-year-old watchman, propped his feet against a lukewarm steam radiator in his office in a London building and expounded two main theories.

The first—the Government should have sacrificed its all-out speed drive for three months last summer to enable sufficient bunkering at power stations to carry through the winter.

The second—the Fuel Minister, Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, lacked foresight.

"I think we've overdone the export business," Silence said. "We used up too much coal to turn out articles for the

"mighty dollar" and the country's suffering for it now." Silence, his wife and two grown daughters were luckier than most Britons for the graying watchman—who clearly remembers the winter of 1935 as the coldest he has seen—aliked his collar and store noise with coal during the summer.

He said he practised what the Government preached—but failed to practise itself. Consequently, he manages to maintain a coal fire in one room.

In all, Silence believes that he and 40,000,000 other Britons are taking it in the neck now far worse than they did during the war.

He gripped because he could not get a bit of rum when he wanted it and because only this morning he had to call at six tobacconists before he could buy cigarettes.

"But I am like a lot," he explained. "We all get peevish when shortages cut out the things we want. I blame Shinwell for not seeing to it that fuel supplies were more than ample even though he had every indication this was going to be a tough winter. However, if things righted themselves tomorrow, I would feel he was okay for the job."

Jack Gorman, 41-year-old London doorman, took a philosophical view and heaped his scorn on "this ungodly winter." He did not feel even though he has not been able to get any coal for two months, that Shinwell or the Government was to blame.

His wife, he said, simply made allowances, as all Britons have become accustomed to doing in the past seven years. "For instance, it used to take 20 minutes to boil potatoes on their gas ring and now it requires 30 minutes because of the reduced pressure. The potatoes simply go on the stove 10 minutes earlier. They also burn wood garnered from an abandoned American Army camp."

Other typical cases—those people who do not live in steam-heated houses and whose wages often do not exceed the allowance an American serviceman gets under the Glueckstein-plan agreed that misery seemed to be their lot. This year.

Some blame the nationalisation of railways for the coal crisis, putting the finger on stockholders who still maintained executive positions.

Some thought inducements should be offered to make mining more attractive. But all whether they traced their grievances to the weather or to the Government—agreed unanimously that this island had yet to face a more discouraging future.—United Press.

Who's Who Originator Dead

Brighton, Feb. 13. The man who first compiled "Who's Who" in its present form, Dr. Douglas Sladen, a writer, biographer, poet, traveller and sportsman, died at 81 last night, a week after his 81st birthday.

The idea for a modern "Who's Who" came to him at the end of the last century when travelling in the United States, and seeing personal paragraphs about people in the press.

In 1897, "Who's Who" was merely a Court list, but when Sladen became editor, he introduced compact little biographies with such intimate details as "favourite recreation."—Reuter.

Clashes In Punjab

Lahore, Feb. 13. Spears, hatchets, staves and tear gas were among the weapons used today in clashes in Punjab between the police and Moslem League members agitating against the Punjab Government Public Safety Ordinance forbidding processions.

At Sarhoda, 160 miles north-west of Lahore, horsemen armed with spears and hatchets, who were leading a Moslem procession which tried to break a police cordon, were scattered by police using staves.

Tear gas was used to disperse a crowd in front of the police station at Amritsar, several persons being injured and two arrested.

In Lahore itself 80 Moslem League procession leaders were arrested.—Reuter.

Writing The Peace

Writing the peace terms for Germany promises to be a tough job for the delegates who will gather in Moscow next month, but it could be tougher.

Behind various plans and ideas already being put forward is the motive which is fairly common to powers which will do most of the treaty

to assume no one learned anything much from the second world war and how it came about. You can assume that if you care to, but if otherwise inclined, you may be interested in noting that all of Europe is lousy in need of things Germany normally produces in peacetime—hardwires, durable goods, precision machinery.

It appears that Russia which lost most of an inadequate industrial setup during the war needs this stuff as badly or worse than anyone else.

Observers of the Russian scene note this: Soviet Russians never had the gadgets and the clothes and the good living they wanted, partly because their whole effort was diverted into building a production machine which worked itself ragged for the war. The Russians still want these things. Now their soldiers are going home with knowledge gained abroad of what they have been missing.

Potential Russian demand for consumer goods is so great, in the opinion of some observers, that it may force revision of the latest Soviet five-year plan for industrial expansion toward larger and quicker volume of consumer goods to satisfy this demand.

So it would seem that basicaly no great power has more interest than Russia in seeing German production get started again. For Germany to resume this production she must know where she is going to stand and so must others.

To assume both are right is

By JAMES
D. WHITE

writing. This is determination not to repeat the same mistakes which allowed Germany to rise again after the first world war and bring on the second.

Getting together on how to prevent Germany from ever again becoming another military threat is a task that will have to be carried through a maze of diversions. First, no big power can afford to ignore too obviously the wishes of the small powers whose votes are important in United Nations councils on other issues still ahead. This means at least a preliminary period of many ideas and proposals, while the big powers listen to small power pleas.

Another diversion is mutual suspicion by most powers that any inclination to go easy on Germany means that some one is trying to save her to be used against someone else later on. Russia suspects this of the west and the west returns the compliment.

CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

By Shepard Barclay

"The Authority on Authorities"

UNSAFE SUITS
UNWISE

"NOBODY WILL ever place a higher value on you than you put on yourself," was the advice given by an older business man to a younger one who had asked what salary he should request on a job he was seeking. It is the same advice that a bridge player, the prophetic declarer, who fears that five-odd in a minor might be too hard to make, even though the minor is patently the correct suit, and prefers to essay game in four-odd of a major when it is clearly an unsound trump suit, deserves whatever misfortune befalls him.

S 10 7 4
H A 8 6
C Q J 8
D K 10 9 5

S 8 2
H Q 5
D A 6 3
C A K Q J

N
W
E
S

S J 5 4 3
H 7 3 2
D 4 2
C 9 7 4 3

S A K 9 6
H K J 10 9
D K 10 9 7 5
C None

(Dealer: South North-South vulnerable.)
What would you consider the soundest bidding of this deal?

South West North East
1D 2C Pass Pass
2C Dbl 3NT Pass
4S

And, believe it or not, North passed that, instead of showing his preference for diamonds, by going to 5-Diamonds. His excuse, after the hand was over, was that he thought 10 tricks might be easier to make in spades than 11 tricks in diamonds, since he had three cards to an honour in the spades. But what happened to his partner was a caution.

West led the club K, which the spade 6 ruffed. A diamond drove out the A, and the club Q forced South's second trump. Now South scored the spade A and K and the diamond Q, then laid down the spade Q in the hope that trumps were evenly divided. They were not. The probable division of four and two existed. So East still had a trump left. The diamond I drove it out, but East thereupon led a third club round. West could take three more tricks in that suit. That made a total of five tricks for the defence and set the contract two.

At 5-Diamonds, with a lead of the club K, South would have been in clover. In fact, his contract would have been an extra trick for an unbid small slam if he guessed West for the heart Q. The only trick the defence would have been sure to score was with the diamond A.

Having bid diamonds first, then shown power with his cue-bid of clubs, North should at least have counted the diamonds as at least five and the spades as only four.

Tomorrow's Problem

S 6 3
H 4
D J 6 2
C A K 10 9 6 4 3

S J 10 7 4
H 10 6 5 2
D 9 8 3
C 8 5

N
W
E
S

S Q 8 5 2
H A 9 8 7
D 10 5 4
C 7 2

(Dealer: East East-West vulnerable.)
What would you consider the soundest bidding of this deal?

H.K.'s Ex-Gunners Getting Together

There is a stirring amongst ex-Gunners in Hong Kong to form an association. In none of the services is there a greater sense of fraternity than among those who have served in the Royal Regiment of Artillery. Those who have once been in the service of the gun retain a transcendent feeling of attachment, loyalty and affection for their regiment which neither time nor dispersal can abate and which amidst the pre-occupation of peace impel an urge to gather together and keep the flame burning.

There is something in very close and intimate association of the little family of the battery which fosters a feeling of common service and devotion to the same craft.

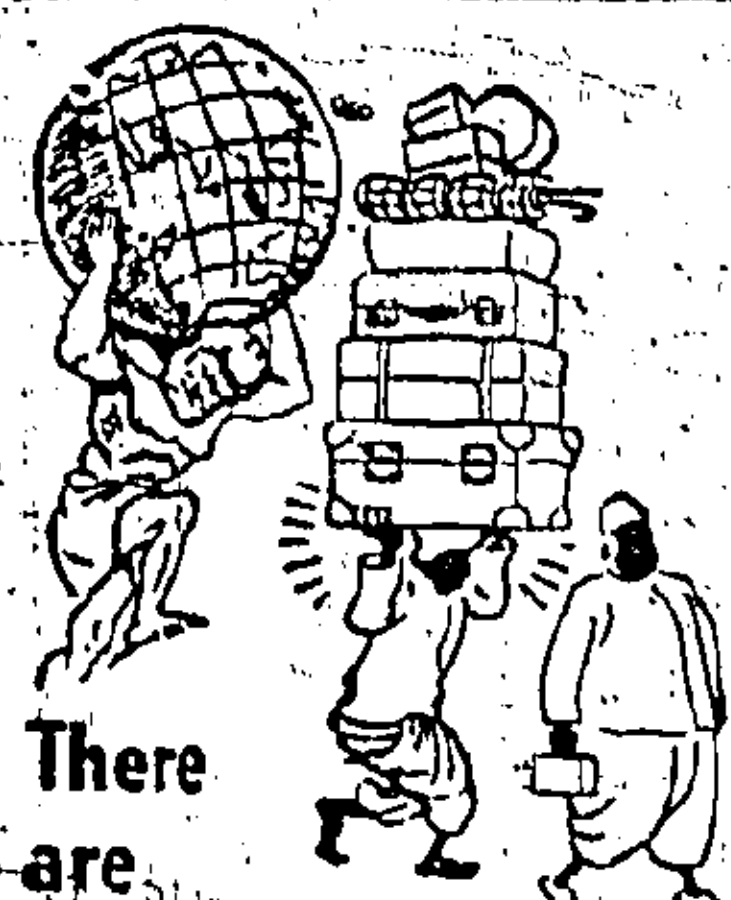
What other regiment has its own Patron Saint? From the time of the introduction of the cannon into warfare in the fifteenth century, Saint Barbara and glory lead. The same ubiquitous sense of association and duty might be maintained as a peace in war, and all, both officers and men, who have at any time served but are not now serving in the Royal Regiment of Artillery are being cordially invited to assemble at the Volunteer Headquarters on Tuesday February 25th at 5.45 p.m. to talk over the possibilities of keeping alive in Hong Kong the freemasonry of the guns.

Roman Pro-Consul, Martian. Immediately upon the execution there came on a most fearful tempest with thunder, lightning and fire fell upon the cruel father and consumed him. Another flash reduced Martian to a smoking heap. Hence the martyr is held to be the patroness of thunder and lightning, of artillery and of arsenal.

There must be a considerable number of former gunners in the Colony. Both those who are fresh from the mechanised batteries of the recent war and whose traditions of service have been kept undimmed from the days of the horse batteries of previous wars including, it is hoped, some still unwearied veterans of the Boer War.

The motto of the Regiment is "Ubique quo fas et gloria decunt"—"wherever right and glory lead. The same

ubiquitous sense of association and duty might be maintained as a peace in war, and all, both officers and men, who have at any time served but are not now serving in the Royal Regiment of Artillery are being cordially invited to assemble at the Volunteer Headquarters on Tuesday February 25th at 5.45 p.m. to talk over the possibilities of keeping alive in Hong Kong the freemasonry of the guns.



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ATTLEE REPORTS TO COMMONS Cause For Anxiety In Gas Industry Nine Days' Coal In Hand

British M.P. Missing

Athens, Feb. 12. Nothing has been heard of the Labour M.P. Mr. T. G. Thomas, since he entered guerrilla-held territory in Thessaly four days ago.

A British Embassy spokesman here tonight said he did not know Thomas' whereabouts.

Mr. Thomas, who came to Greece last month primarily to give evidence for the defence in the trial of members of a Left Wing organisation, was advised a week ago by the British Military Mission that they could not guarantee his safety if he tried to contact the guerrillas.

Thomas, who is a Welshman from Rhondda, is 38. Last July he headed the British Youth Delegation to Warsaw to attend the Polish Youth conference—Reuter.

A schoolmaster, Thomas was elected Labour member for Cardiff, Central Division, in July 1945. His home is in Ely Street, Tonnandy, Glamorgan-shire.

SIR W. BROWN DEAD

London, Feb. 13. Sir William Brown, KCB, KCMG, CBE, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Air, died in Tuesday at his home at Monkseaton, Northumberland, it was learned today. He was 53.

Sir William had been at the Air Ministry since October, 1945, and previously was Secretary to the Ministry of Home Security. He went to Washington on a special mission in 1944.—United Press.

London, Feb. 13. The Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, told the House of Commons today that Britain's supply of fuel for power had improved slightly, but warned that there was cause for anxiety now in the gas industry.

The Prime Minister, making an up-to-the-minute report on the fuel crisis that had stopped all but the most essential of the nation's industries, said 78,000 tons of coal were saved between Monday and Wednesday as a result of the drastic current cuts.

He said the general power stocks of coal at the nation's generating plants were now sufficient for about nine days normal operations. In London, however, there was only about a week's stock at six main power stations.

At the worst, the coal stocks earlier had dropped to four days' supply.

The situation remains critical, Mr. Attlee said. "The coal stocks of gas undertakings give cause for anxiety, particularly in London where stocks in general amount to about nine and a half days' consumption—considerably lower in some cases."

Mr. Attlee announced that 12 ships carrying 24,000 tons of coal had reached London in the past 24 hours and between noon on Tuesday and noon today 51 ships in all had left port—ports, carrying 400,000 tons for London.

Thirty more ships carrying 25,500 tons left northeastern ports for other destinations in that same period, Mr. Attlee said. Six ships were tied up, but more than 31 others were expected to move today.

More Coal Moved

The Premier reported that the railways of Britain moved more coal as a result of the passenger service cuts announced last night.

And he sombrely read to the House the weather forecast of continued cold weather—but no gale and no fog.

"This means," he said, "that although the loading of wagons and ships still is slow and difficult, we can keep seaborne coal moving."

He advised the Commons that the "dangerous" spots are the north-east and Midlands areas. His warning followed an earlier announcement by the British Gas Council that its 1,100 gas-producing members had been put in readiness to impose an emergency plan to cut off supplies to non-essential industries. Home consumption would not be affected under the plan.

"Improvement?" In opposing Gusev's insistence on the treaty prohibition of pan-Germanic propaganda in Austria, Gen. Clark said the United States cherished freedom of the press and of speech, but such was not the case in Russia.

Gusev angrily retorted that freedom of speech had nothing to do with what was under discussion and that they were talking about Austria and not what was done in the United States or Russia.

Gen. Clark replied: "Freedom of expression has a lot to do with it."

How Britain Is Affected

London, Feb. 14. Here is how Britain's fuel crisis cuts across the lives, home and activities in the areas affected by the great switch-off.

Big business virtually all large manufacturing plants are closed. Domestic reductions are noticeable in railway transport facilities, with only a week's coal supply left.

Industrialists incur heavy wage bills to meet payments under lien contracts.

Underwriters face losses through curtailment of production for export.

Small manufacturers all non-essential factories closed.

Fuel "pirates" seeking to operate during the night are watched by Government inspectors. Sub-contractors resort to "home-work."

Small factories and "family business" through their organisation, the National Union of Manufacturers, appeal to the Government to enable 4,000 firms to re-open.

The workers—an estimated 6,000,000 are idle and unemployment is expected to reach 6,000,000 by the end of the week.

Those not covered by the unemployment contracts begin queuing for the dole. (Government unemployment insurance of 24 shillings weekly for a man, 16 shillings for his wife and correspondingly less for children.)

The housewife—this rationed woman has her "cooking" schedule upset. If she uses gas, that is threatened too. The Sunday "joint" may never get fully cooked. Many homes, already short of coal for heating, now have their electric heaters turned off five hours a day. And with lights out during the dark days there is little comfort left in the home.

The shopkeeper—he is working

in candle-lit, gloomy, and ice-cold stores.

B.B.C. Cuts

Office workers—with elevators halted, they climb the steps and work in overcoats by candle light, lanterns and hurricane lamps.

Banking—electric accounting machines are paralysed, ledger posting is done by hand.

School children—schools dependent on electric heating are not affected but hot mid-day meals are curtailed. No schools are closed because of the fuel shortage.

Travel—delayed or cancelled altogether because of transportation tie-ups. Suburban electric trains curtailed.

Radio—the B.B.C. has cancelled for the duration its high-brow "third programme and television, and shortened other programmes. Millions of receiving sets are silent.

Newspapers—they have reverted to war-time size until further notice—to conserve electricity and newspaper supplies, which are scarce because of transport difficulties. Periodicals are suspended.

Sports and other entertainment—greyhound racing is banned. Many soccer matches are off because of cancelled trains.

Sleeping-chasing is irregular because of cold weather and transport difficulties. Cinemas, closed until 1000 GMT.

Food—cake and pastry baking prohibited but no other rations foodstuffs endangered.—Associated Press.

CLARK VERSUS GUSEV: SECOND ROUND

London, Feb. 13. General Mark Clark (United States) today again challenged the Soviet deputy, M. Gusev, on the principles of freedom of the press and democracy as the Foreign Ministers' deputies resumed discussions on the Austrian treaty.

Gen. Clark insisted that some views which Austria might express in future might be unobjectionable to the United States but objectionable elsewhere, adding, "My remarks of Tuesday about freedom of expression and democracy are still applicable."

In opposing Gusev's insistence on the treaty prohibition of pan-Germanic propaganda in Austria, Gen. Clark said the United States cherished freedom of the press and of speech, but such was not the case in Russia.

Gusev angrily retorted that freedom of speech had nothing to do with what was under discussion and that they were talking about Austria and not what was done in the United States or Russia.

Gen. Clark replied: "Freedom of expression has a lot to do with it."

The upshot of the argument was that the matter was referred by the deputies to the Council of Foreign Ministers to decide whether Austria should be expressly forbidden "pan-Germanic propaganda in any form."

Anschluss

Britain, the United States and France suggested prohibition of propaganda for an Anschluss with Germany.

The deputies did agree in principle to prohibit a political or economical Anschluss with Germany, and that Austria should be made fully aware of such prohibition.

Gusev insisted that Austria be bound to maintain all laws passed since the war's end aiming at liquidation of Nazism and re-establishing democracy, but the Western Allies urged that this apply only to dissolution of Nazi groups and to maintenance of democratic institutions.

The issue went back to the Political Committee and the deputies agreed to hear Austria on it.—United Press.

Mr. Attlee, who was replying to a question, added: "Similarly, it has been the practice in the case of India and will henceforth also be in the case of Burma, for His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to keep the Government of those countries informed on all matters of foreign policy in which they are likely to be interested."

"The Colonial Governments concerned have also been kept informed of the general line of British policy in these and other matters."

"The United Kingdom cannot and would not wish to interfere with the right and responsibility of the individual Dominion Government to present their own views at any time to foreign Governments, to the Council of Foreign Ministers, or to the Council of Deputies."

Sir Ralph Glynn (Conservative) had asked whether, in preliminary consideration of the terms of the peace treaties to Germany and Austria, steps were taken through the Dominions, India and Colonial Offices to ensure that the views of the Dominion and Colonial Governments were taken into full account before His Majesty's Government put forward its views of the Allied Foreign Ministers conferences, so that the Foreign Office could re-

BOOGIE-WOOGIE OUT

London, Feb. 13.

The "Daily Telegraph" reports from Belgrade that the "boogie-woogie," Congo, Big Apple and trucking had been banned in Zagreb.

The official gazette in Zagreb said that engaging in or teaching these American dances was punishable by a fine of US \$30 or 45 days' imprisonment.—United Press.

Accused Protest Innocence

London, Feb. 13.

Protesting their innocence Thomas John Ley, a 66-year-old Company director and former New South Wales Minister of Justice, and Lawrence John Smith, (38) a London joiner, were at a West London police court today committed for trial charged with the murder of John MacBain Mudge, a 35-year-old Reigate Hotel barman whose body was found in a Surrey chalk-pit last November.

Both pleaded not guilty and reserved their defence after the defence submission that no case had been established against Ley had been rejected by the court.

Doctor Eric Gardner, the pathologist who examined Mudge's body in the trench in the chalk-pit, identified pieces of rope which were found on the body.

Some had been used for trussing, he said, and one piece, which was in a noose round the neck, had caused death by asphyxia.—Reuter.

Bernhard Won't Be Scooped

The Hague, Feb. 13.

Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands has decided on elaborate arrangements to scoop the world with pictures of the new Royal baby, expected to be born at Soestdijk Palace any day.

He is anxious to avoid what happened at the time of the birth of Princess Beatrix, his first child, when some British newspapers, overbidding the Dutch press, were able to publish photographs first.

The Prince will take the photographs himself. The negatives will then be taken under heavy escort to the Court Photographer. A detective will guard the dark room while they are being developed.

Prints will then be taken by the police to Amsterdam where they will be issued to the foreign press under a 24-hour embargo. This will mean that no pictures will appear until 86 hours after the birth.—Reuter.

Richard Arrives In Britain

London, Feb. 13.

A 13-year-old boy from Shanghai, Richard Jerome Spinks, arrived from Hong Kong at Poole Harbour by BOAC flying boat today.

During the past 31 days, he has been thrown into the sea from a wrecked Far Eastern Airlines aircraft near Luzon; spent 17 hours in the water; been rescued and taken to Manila by an American transport; then taken to Shanghai by a warship and finally a week ago caught the BOAC flying boat which has brought him to England.

He is the son of a Shanghai Gas Company official and has come to England to complete his education at a preparatory school before going to college.—Reuter.

CZECH DAKOTA CRASH

Prague, Feb. 13.

The crew of three were killed when a Czech Air Lines Dakota crashed near Klavno today shortly after taking off from Ruzynov airfield near Prague.

The plane caught fire on crashing. It had not yet been put on the regular service.

An inquiry into the cause of the disaster has been ordered.—Reuter.

Empire Consulted On Treaty Talks

London, Feb. 13.

The Government was in close and constant contact with the Dominions and took full account of such views as they had expressed before the recent discussions in the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Prime Minister told the House of Commons today.

Mr. Attlee, who was replying to a question, added: "Similarly, it has been the practice in the case of India and will henceforth also be in the case of Burma, for His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to keep the Government of those countries informed on all matters of foreign policy in which they are likely to be interested."

"The Colonial Governments concerned have also been kept informed of the general line of British policy in these and other matters."

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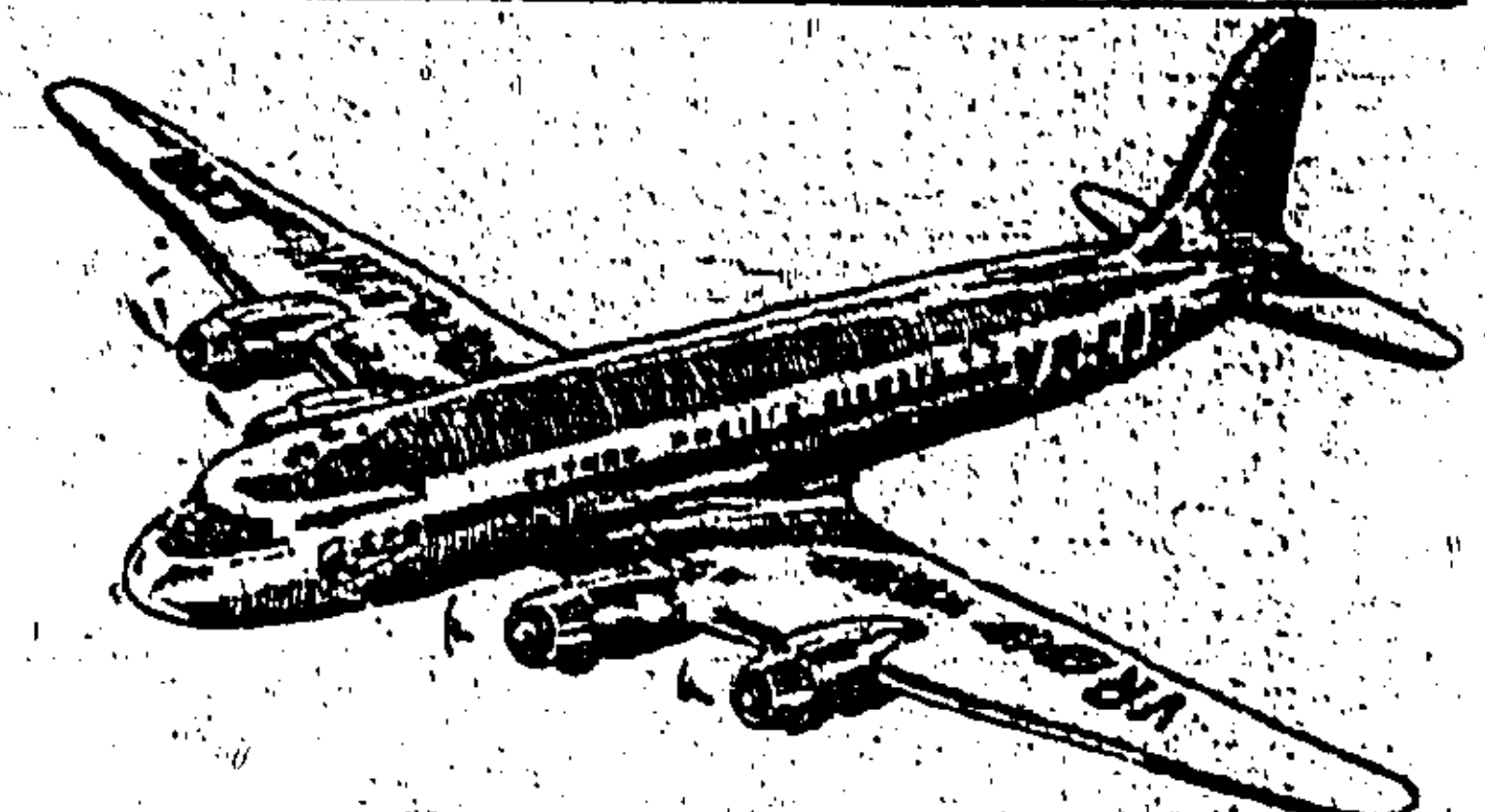
Gromyko Unseals His Lips

Lake Success, Feb. 13.

The Soviet delegate, M. Andrei Gromyko, in a rare impromptu statement to newsmen, said after the Security Council meeting today: "We are going to do our best to assure the success of the new Commission."

M. Gromyko implied that he no longer had objections to dividing "mass destruction" and "conventional" between two commissions. He said final action on the resolution was "good and helpful."

The United States delegate, Mr. Warren Austin, was pleased that M. Gromyko did not try to use the veto to block the arms plan. He said: "One thing to remember is that, as M. Gromyko said yesterday, there are many things on which we agree."—United Press.



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M.C.C.'s Poor Showing In Victoria Match

Melbourne, Feb. 14.
Denis Compton took honours in an otherwise disappointing display of batting by the MCC here today on the opening day of the four-day return match against Victoria when the tourists lost five wickets for 266 runs.

Compton was only seven runs short of his fifth successive first class century when he was dismissed by Keith Miller who held a hot return. Compton's 93 was made in two hours 38 minutes and included five fours.

The scoreboard at the end of today's play was:
M.C.C.
Washbrook, b Thide 22
Fishlock, c Hassett, b Freer 17
Gibb, c Johnson, b Miller 17
Compton, c and b Miller 93
Hardstaff, c Tribe, b Freer 51
Ikin, not out 13
Yardley, not out 10
Extras 10
Total (for 5 wickets) 266
Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-73, 3-111, 4-130, 5-226.—Reuter.

In the first match against Victoria early last November the M.C.C. won by 24 runs.

Chess

The Kowloon Chess Club entertained a team from the 2nd Battalion. The Buffs, at a match played at the Peninsula Hotel on Thursday night, winning on eight boards and drawing on the ninth.

The Buffs were a game team but were up against an unusually strong set of opponents and would have done better were it not for the fact that they were opposed by two Senior players—four Intermediates and three Juniors.

The Buffs did score, however, in the fact that they were the first Service team in years to accept an invitation to a match and the Club hopes that further matches can be arranged against Thursday's opponents and other teams.

A return match against The Buffs is a near certainty and a more balanced set of opponents is assured.

The Kowloon Chess Club lined up with Col. H. M. Whitcombe, D. E. de Carvalho, S. Novikov, R. C. Gardner, E. Tausz, J. P. de Carvalho, J. Ramler, A. E. Gomes and R. C. Tavares who were opposed by Lt. Thomas (Captain of the team), Lt. Evans, Pte. Meschiermidt, Lt. Bishop, Sgt. Gard, Cpl. Pill, Sgt. Palmer, Cpl. Waterman and Cpl. Knowles.

A famous British scientist says the present atomic bombs are 600 times more powerful than those of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Science Shorts

Glass for aircraft capable of stopping a half inch cannon shell has been developed in England. It is made of seven layers of white plate glass and is 2 1/2 inches thick.

The Soviet Arctic Institute sent its icebreaker "Severnyy Polyus" to 74 degrees North latitude, a new record, in 1946. The site is north of Novosibirsk.

A new arthritis drug, based on the acid-alkaline principle, cured a disease-crippled rheumatoid which had been declared to be shot. It went on to win three steeplechases.

Prague, Feb. 13.
Belgium, Poland, Austria, Rumania, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and Czechoslovakia are expected to participate in the world and European ice hockey championships, beginning here on Feb. 15. The championships will be played under the system whereby each team plays each other.—Reuter.

A 24,600 foot peak in the Pamirs has been named "Mt. Stalin."—United Press.

London, Feb. 13.
A decision to defer consideration for 12 months of proposals for a fourth division of the English Football League was announced after a meeting in London today of the Third Division (South) clubs.

The Third League (North) clubs recently postponed a decision on their attitude to a fourth division.—Reuter.

Test Tactics And Don Bradman

Adelaide, Feb. 13.
Don Bradman, in a letter to the newspaper "Advertiser," says that certain people have written to newspapers regarding the tactics adopted in the fourth Test, suggesting that he explain the aspects.

"To do so naturally involves the tactics of our opponents which, in any case, would be most discourteous at this juncture. As a member of the Australian team I am forbidden during the season by the Board of Control regulations to make any public comment on the play and players in first-class matches. If this fact was widely known it would save a lot of argument and also explain why a lot of things written about the play and players go unanswered by the participants," Bradman writes.—Reuter.

Britain Wants Action In Staff Talks

Lake Success, N.Y. Feb. 13.
Britain this evening urged the United Nations Security Council to take action to stop the delay in the Military Staff Committee, which has been discussing the organising of the United Nations armed forces since it was set up a year ago.

Sir Alexander Cadogan urged that the Council should call on the committee to produce a report of its activities not later than April 30. France supported the proposal. The Soviet delegate, M. Gromyko, opposed the setting of any time limit.

NEW GEORGES CARPENTIER?

Paris, Feb. 13.
Following his fourth round knockout victory over the Scottish lightweight, Percy Silvey, two nights ago in a London ring, French boxing experts were seriously speculating today whether or not Marcel Cerdan, French and European middleweight champion, could emulate Georges Carpentier and flatten any one of Europe's best heavyweights.—Reuter.

"SAI ON" ENQUIRY OPENS

(Continued from Page 1)
of the "twain deck." Private cooking was not allowed.

The Chief Officer, the Chief Engineer and the Second Engineer were all certificated men. At the time of the fire all the crew were on board.

Heard No Alarm
The first intimation Capt. Wherry had of anything amiss was at 4.55 a.m. when his boy rushed into his cabin and called "Master, big fire on ship; you come quick."

Previous to that he had heard no alarm; and as far as he knew no member of the crew nor any one of the passengers had seen the fire started. He rushed out and ordered the crew to take up the fire hoses, one of which he was in service. The fire extinguishers could not be used as they were too clumsy to handle. The centre of the fire was amidship and it was spreading rapidly.

By 5.10 a.m. Captain Wherry was on the wharf, the whole ship being aflame, and the heat was so intense that people on the wharf had to flee. The last of the passengers who had managed to do so had left the ship's side; further escape was impossible.

Asked if he was aware that people were trapped in the aft portion of the ship, Captain Wherry said that by the nature of the locality of the fire, possibility of escape was precluded.

Questioned by the Court on steps taken on board to prevent fire and to ensure fire fighting efficiency, Captain Wherry said two members of the complement staff made an inspection of the vessel nightly to see that everything was in order; and the crew were put through a rough fire drill once in every eight days. They were familiar with the position of the fire hose.

Water service on the wharf was for drinking water; he was not sure who was in control. On the night in question the key was missing.

Iron Grilles

Questioned on the advisability of storing cargo on the "twain deck" where passengers were also accommodated, Captain Wherry replied he saw no objection to this practice provided there was proper supervision.

He could give no reason for the fire, and he had no idea how it started or its cause. When he was on the wharf he saw the base of the flame was greenish with a bluish mingling, which would seem to indicate that some highly inflammable materials were burning. Tongues of fire were leaping to a height of 25 feet.

Captain Wherry was also questioned on the iron grilles of the two stairways between the two deck space and the upper deck, which he said were never closed.

The next witness was Mr. G. L. Fenton, managing director of the Tung On S.S. Co., owners of the "Sai On."

Mr. Fenton said the ship was operated by the Company and was insured for HK\$900,000, the policy expiring on March 17, 1947. Neither the Company nor he personally had ever received any threatening letters.

asking for money, service or other considerations.

On the night in question 187 passage tickets had been sold, out of which 128 were for berth passengers. Most passengers buy their tickets on board.

Arrangements for feeding the passengers were undertaken by the ship's commissaire.

Ports Closed
Mr. William Anderson, Chief Officer of the "Sai On" followed the previous witness in the box.

He said he had no idea how many passengers were on board, what cargo was carried, or its disposition, as that was the responsibility of the commissaire staff, and he did not interfere. He was not responsible for the cargo, but he was not aware of any unmanifested cargo or dangerous goods having been brought on board by passengers.

As regards the grille doors of the two stairways from the "twain deck" to the upper deck, he went to bed at 9 p.m. and he could not say definitely whether they were opened on the night of the fire or not.

The off-side cargo ports are closed when working of cargo ceases on instructions from the Revenue officers.

On the evening of Feb. 3 he went to bed at 9 p.m. and he was first aware of the fire at 5 a.m. the next morning as he was dressing. There was a commotion outside and rushing out he was told by the Chief Engineer that the ship was on fire. He went to the bridge and called the crew to their fire stations. From the top deck he could not see the base colour of the flame, but when he was on the wharf at 5.05 a.m. the flame was red.

The fire was severest above the engine room on main deck. He could give no reason for the fire or its cause, and as far as he knew, no one saw it started.

The ship carried 32 bags of mail which were stored in the lower hold.

Bad Practice
Asked for his opinion on the desirability of carrying cargo on the "twain deck" where passengers were also accommodated, he said personally the practice was a bad one, especially where inflammable cargo was carried.

The Court then adjourned for the luncheon recess.

When the Court resumed in the afternoon the first witness was Chief Engineer S.O. Bux who said he was awakened at 4.45 a.m. by shouts of "fire" from outside his cabin. He rushed out in his pyjamas, and towards the alarm, grabbed a fire extinguisher and went aft. When he got amidship he smashed a fire hose box, had the hose connected to a hydrant, turned on the water, amidship he smashed a fire hose deck to the lower deck. The Chief Officer then arrived and he handed over to him.

Failing in his attempt to get to another fire hose he took a fire extinguisher and emptied it in trying to get to the main deck. Fire was shooting up from the starboard staircases, and he got burnt. He then tried to go to the hose on the port side, but it was too late, and he had to climb down from the boat deck to the wharf.

No. 2 and 4 cargo ports were open, he said, and so was the grille of the starboard stairway, though he could not say whether that of the corresponding stairway was so or not, though he knew from experience that it was never closed.

Witness had been with the vessel since 1938.

Door Bolted
The second engineer, Joseph Lewis, said he was awakened from his sleep by smoke entering his cabin on the port side of the boat deck. He climbed down on to the

Girl Said She Was Of Age

London, Feb. 14.
A former soldier, who was not placed on trial until 18 months after the date of the alleged offence with which he was charged, was found not guilty and discharged at Oxford Assizes.

He is Thomas Waite, aged 23, a machine operator, of Watlington, Oxford, who pleaded not guilty to an offence against a girl aged 15 at Henley in or about August, 1945.

His counsel, Mr. Peter Evans, moved to quash the indictment, saying that the information was laid in April, 1946—originally charging an offence in July, 1945—but Mr. Justice Vaisey proceeded.

"Why has it taken all this time to come forward?" asked the judge.

Mr. Evans: "Because he has been a soldier in Germany. Waite, he added, was arrested on information laid in April, when the police took a statement from him in which he admitted association with the girl. They then saw fit to charge him with a second offence, and not proceed with the offence originally charged.

The alleged offence occurred, according to the prosecution, when the girl was 15 years and 10 months old. Immediately after that date Waite was transferred to the B.A.O.R. and was not interviewed by the police until November, 1945.

Question Of Age
Waite, in a statement, said the girl told him she was 17, and when the mother said her daughter was 15 he questioned her about her age. She insisted she was 17.

When the girl's mother wrote saying her daughter was pregnant he denied responsibility, and later thought the matter had been dropped. He got married on May 11, 1946.

The girl, in the witness-box, said she did not remember the discussion about her age. Waite had never asked her age. The child was born on July 1, 1946—11 months after the alleged offence.

The mother admitted that her daughter used make-up and looked older than her age.

In evidence Waite said he had recently been demobilised after five and a quarter years in the Hampshire Regt. When he first met the girl he took her to be 17 or 18 years old. She went with him to public houses and he bought her drinks. There were notices there to the effect, that girls under 16 must not be served.

The judge: Do you think girls under 16 would pay much attention to those notices?

Waite: I doubt it, my lord.

He had left it impossible for those in the rear portion of the ship to get to this exit as the fire spreading so rapidly had cut off their escape.

Inspector Clark of the Police Waterfront Unit put it to witness that a lot of litter had been collected underneath the wooden counter since it was seldom swept and people had been known to sleep between it and the space for storing cargo. He admitted that it was possible.

The Court then adjourned to 9.30 a.m. this morning.

Labour "Warning" To Ramadier

Paris, Feb. 13.
Despite pleas by Premier Paul Ramadier, Paris pressmen walked off their jobs to begin the nation's one-day strike movement. The situation is grave since the Premier shows no signs of departing from the Government stand of no wage increases until the battle against rising prices is won.

France's financial situation is far from cheerful. The Finance Minister, M. Robert Schuman, calculates that total expenditure for the year will be 1,150,000,000,000 francs, with a deficit of some 420,000,000,000 francs.

Torn between demands for higher wages and inability to find the money without opening the gate to inflation, the French Government is now faced with a grave strike situation.

Tomorrow afternoon, Government offices, post offices, schools, public utilities and State employment of labour will all be at a standstill when the employees walk out for a public demonstration.

The symbolic strike will last only one afternoon as a "warning" to the Government that employees are not willing to continue without having their wages and indemnity demands satisfied.

State workers object to the fact that industrial workers are on a 48-hour week with the extra eight hours counted as

China's Debt To A German

Nanking, Feb. 14.

Anxious to pay a ten-year-old debt of gratitude, Chinese authorities led by Mayor Shen Yi are earnestly searching for a German who is believed to have saved the lives of thousands of Chinese during the Japanese massacre in 1937.

Word of this German's good deed came out during a city-wide hunt for evidence against Hisao Tani, former commander of the Japanese division alleged to have been responsible for the notorious "rape of Nanking," and now on trial for his life.

It was learned that the German was on the International Relief Association in Nanking when the Japanese entered the city in December, 1937. He opened a refuge shelter and is credited with saving many thousands, yet the Chinese have not been able as yet to learn his name. He is reported to have been recalled to Germany in the summer of 1938, and there to have held a series of exhibitions of pictures he took in Nanking in order to show the German public the inhuman conduct of Japanese troops. Rumours say that the Hitler Government forbade him to continue them under penalty of arrest.

Municipal sources say the mayor by unknown means has received word that the German, now about 60 years old, is still alive with his family in a small town somewhere in Germany and suffering great financial difficulties. If he can be found, the mayor wants to give him help in the name of a grateful Nanking and perhaps invite him and his family back to China to live on a pension.—Associated Press.

—Associated Press.

Output of crude oil last year fell from 4,200,000 tons in 1945 to 3,860,000 tons, or little more than half the pre-war peak.—United Press.

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"Society Gang" At Work

London, Feb. 14.

Two members of the "Society Gang"—London's most expert cat thieves—made a haul of a fur coat and jewellery worth more than £2,000 from the home of Mr. Samuel Sonabend, at Sheldon Avenue, Highgate, while a dinner party was in progress.

Cars were parked outside the house, and the thieves must have arrived in their own car and parked it among the guests' cars. While the guests were eating, the thieves slipped out, wearing a chauffeur's peak cap, sat waiting for him in the car.

The house has 15 or 16 rooms and backs on to Hampstead golf course.

The thief, after climbing a stack-pipe to a balcony, forced the catch of the window. Only one room was robbed, and the theory is that he may have been disturbed by one of the guests.

The theft was discovered while the party was still on when Mrs. Sonabend went to her bedroom. Guests were able to recall an extra car which parked outside, but when they went to investigate it had gone.

Mr. Sonabend is the head of a large firm of London woollen merchants.

The "Society Gang" have robbed a number of other large houses within recent months. They generally prepare their ground thoroughly.

—United Press.

—United Press.

—United Press.

—United Press.

—United Press.

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Suicide Popular In Sugamo

Tokyo, Feb. 14.

Many of the 1,073 prisoners at Sugamo prison, where are held ex-Premier Hideki Tojo and other major Japanese war criminals suspects, attempted suicide one time or other. Allied correspondents were told on the first group visit ever permitted to the No. 1 Bastille of Japanese captivity.

Colonel Francis W. McCrory, who conducted the tour, declined to name those attempting to end their lives, but added all had been failed.

The prison contains both war crimes suspects and those convicted in war crimes tribunals. McCrory showed the correspondents a considerable number of postcards of suicide items which guards had taken from the prisoners, including two paper-covered caskets of cyanide. Chief among the confiscated items were cords and strips of cloth for use in strangulation or hanging attempts. Such items have been taken from Tokyo ex-Premier Baron Kichiro and Toshiro Gihara, former Ambassador to Italy. They are all defendants in the major war crimes trial here.

Rusty Nail
"We are trying to defeat all laws of probability," said McCrory, explaining efforts of guards to prevent any suicides by constant vigilance and patrol of cell blocks which requires GI watchers to look into every cell at least once every minute of 24 hours.

Papen Met Hitler In His House

Nuernberg, Feb. 14.

Evidenced was concluded today in the de-Nazification trial of Franz von Papen, and the court President Camille Sachs, announced that sentence would be pronounced next Friday. The court meets on Tuesday for the final plea.

Kurt von Schroeder, German banker who helped finance Hitler before he came to power, testified that Hitler and von Papen met in his Berlin home on Jan. 4, 1933, where Hitler turned down proposals that the Nazi Party enter a coalition with Hitler as Vice-Chancellor.

He said Hitler, Hess and Wilhelm Keiper, Hitler's economic advisor, accompanied him but did not take part in the talks held after nightfall to prevent anyone seeing Hitler arrive.

An affidavit from Konstantin von Neurath said Goering told Neurath just before the War Crimes Tribunal sentenced him that von Papen never wanted the Nazis in power but wanted the Chancellorship himself.

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